

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 11, 12, 14 and 18 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. This Amendment supplements Applicants' April 28, 2008 Request for Reconsideration, the arguments from which are not repeated here. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiners Milia and Zimmerman to Applicants' representative at the May 13, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the personal interview appears below.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,143,141 to Morgan et al. (hereinafter "Morgan") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0024686 to Uchiyama et al. (hereinafter "Uchiyama"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 11 call for a switching unit that directly causes the image formation requesting unit to operate by sending operating instructions to the image formation requesting unit, and the image formation requesting unit, which is configured to receive the operating instructions from the switching unit causes, based on the operating instructions, the image formation unit to form the image. Claims 12, 14 and 18 call for a similar switching unit.

The Office Action, on page 4, admits that Morgan fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features.

As discussed with Examiners Milia and Zimmerman at the personal interview, Uchiyama discloses, in Fig. 25 and paragraph [0140], a facsimile server 107 that is configured to determine that a facsimile image cannot be received by a terminal 101. The facsimile image, which cannot be received by the terminal 101, is assigned with a content ID and stored on the Internet (*see* paragraph [0141], lines 1-3). The facsimile server 107 notifies

the user of the terminal 101 of the unreceivable facsimile image. The user of the terminal 101 can then retrieve predetermined storage places to confirm if the data (facsimile image) is stored, and the data (facsimile image), which is not received by the terminal 101, can then be outputted with an arbitrary printing apparatus (*see* paragraph [0142], lines 1-9).

Thus, in Uchiyama an operator notification allows a user to be able to cause the image formation requesting unit to operate in an indirect manner. Conversely, the independent claims require the feature that a switching unit directly causes the image formation requesting unit to operate by sending operating instructions to the image formation requesting unit.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Morgan in view of Uchiyama and in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0053122 to Kinoshita; claims 3-4, 7-10 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Morgan in view of Uchiyama as applied to claims 1 and 14 and further in view of JP 2001-236288 to Yamaguchi; and claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Morgan in view of Uchiyama as applied to claim 14 and in view of Kinoshita. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

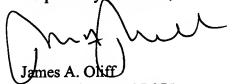
Kinoshita and Yamaguchi fail to overcome the deficiencies of Morgan and Uchiyama as mentioned above, with respect to independent claims 1, 11, 12, 14 and 18. Thus, at least in view of the patentably distinct features of independent claims 1, 11, 12, 14 and 18 as well as for the additional features recited therein, the rejections of claims 2-4, 7-10, 13, and 15-17 should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, in supplement to the remarks made in Applicants' April 28, 2008 Request for Reconsideration, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RHR

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